

**AGENDA**

**SPECIAL MEETING  
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**

**June 19, 2007**

**Aldermen Garrity, O'Neil,  
Osborne, Gatsas, Duval**

**6:00 PM**

**Aldermanic Chambers  
City Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

1. Chairman Garrity calls the meeting to order.
2. The Clerk calls the roll.
3. Chairman Garrity advises that the purpose of the special meeting is discussion relating to a proposed Storm Water Utility Enterprise.
4. Chairman Garrity advises that there being no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.



# City of Manchester

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Office of the Mayor  
Hon. Frank C. Quinta

April 9, 2007

The Committee on Community Improvement  
One City Hall Plaza  
Manchester, NH 03101

Re: FY2008 Budget Message – Policy Recommendations

Dear Chairman Garrity:

As part of my budget message of March 26, 2007, I identified several policy recommendations that I am referring to the Board. As you and your fellow Board members are aware, I have made these recommendations in hope of finding additional savings in government and in order to find a better way to provide city services.

With those principles in mind, I am forwarding two specific policy recommendations to your committee for its consideration. Those two policies are:

1. Storm Water Utility – the potential creation of this enterprise could save the average homeowner significant property tax dollars while improving the way we fund storm water improvements and chronic drainage issues. I am not endorsing this plan but do want the Committee to study this issue and make a determination if such a program would be of benefit to our taxpayers.
2. Infrastructure Improvement Plan – with the anticipation of greater Rooms & Meals tax revenues coming to the city, now is the time to plan how we as city will use those funds. I believe that they should be used to improve our streets and sidewalks for the benefit of our neighborhoods and to improve the physical appearance of our community. This plan not only puts more money into improving our infrastructure but also would reduce the amount of property tax dollars we are committing as well. If the committee so concurs, then it would be my hope that the Board formally adopts such a policy.

For your convenience I have attached some additional data for your deliberations on these two important policy decisions. I would be happy to provide additional information to the committee if so requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank C. Guinta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" being the most prominent.

Frank C. Guinta  
Mayor

Attachments

## STORMWATER ISSUES

- Flooding of Streets, Properties, and Basements
- Sewer Backups
- Potential Regulatory Actions Including Fines, Etc.
- Development of a Stormwater Program
- Health and Economic Welfare of Community

## CAUSE

- Aging & Undersized Infrastructure
- Combined Sanitary and Storm Sewers
- Loss of Pervious Areas
- Increased Vehicular Traffic
- Climatic Changes
- Increased Regulatory Scrutiny of Non-Point Source Runoff

## SOLUTIONS

- Separation
- Holding and Pump Back
- Treatment
- Etc.
- \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

## Results:

Increased Taxes

## Benefits:

- Easy to collect
- Little administrative cost
- Relatively invisible to the taxpayer

## Alternative: Stormwater Utility Fee

### Benefits:

- **Stable** - whereas tax funding and grants vary from year to year
- **Adequate** - for every \$1 dollar per month per house a utility can generate about \$25-\$40 per acre per month
- **Flexible** - credits can be offered to users to encourage better stormwater management performance
- **Equitable** - they can be calculated on equivalent residence units taking into account stormwater generation based on green vs. paved areas.

For these reasons communities with separate stormwater utilities have grown from one in 1975 to almost 500 nationally.

Downside: If NOT established properly they may be challenged in court particularly by tax exempt properties such as churches, universities, etc.

- ❖ A defendable program can be expected to take at least two to three years to develop and implement.

## CASE HISTORY

South Burlington, Vermont - population 16,000

Schedule - Formed stake holders group and fostered enabling legislation (2002)

HTA completed feasibility study (2002-2003)

City proceeded and developed Utility (2004-2005)

Utility Operational (2005)

- . 5,100 accounts billed quarterly
- . Resident cost - \$13.50/quarter
- . Program has raised \$1.2 million dollars per year with less than 1% of accounts outstanding